खाद्य मंत्री (श्री अजीत सिंह): (क) जी, हां।

(ख) भारतीय खाद्य निगम की प्रचालन लागत में मुख्यतया वसूली प्रासंगिक खर्चे, वितरण लागत और बफर स्टाक की रख-रखाव लागत शामिल है। प्रति क्विंटल दरें उपाबन्धों में दर्शायी गयी हैं। [देखिए परिशिष्ट 175 अनुपत्र सं० 7, 8 और 9]

(ग) भाग (ख) के उत्तर को ध्यान में रखते हुए प्रश्न नहीं उठता। दरों में वृद्धि के लिए मुख्य कारण है— सामान्य मुद्रास्फीति, न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्यों में वृद्धि, ब्याज दरों और भाड़ा दरों में परिवर्तन।

58. *[Cancelled]*

Control on essential commodities

59. SHRI R. MARGABANDU: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in southern region of India til oil is available at a cost of Rs. 70 per kg. and dal at a rate of Rs. 35 per kg.; and

(b) if so, what steps Government pro pose to take to control the prices of these commodities of daily use in a big way?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) As per available information the wholesale prices of til oil during the year 1995 were ranging from Rs. 33.75 to Rs. 54.20 per kg. and dal from Rs. 20.20 to Rs. 31.00 per Kg. in most parts of the southern India.

The Government has been monitoring the prices of pulses and edible oils on a continuous basis. Edible oils are being imported on a regular basis to reduce the gap between demand and supply.

Because of wide gap between demand and supply, import of pulses has been placed on OGL with 5% reduced Customs duty. Import of pulses range between 4-6 lakh tonnes per annum against a gap of 2-3 million tonnes between demand and supply and hence this is not adequate to bring down the prices of pulses in the domestic market. Government is, however, taking all possible steps to increase production of pulses and oil seeds.

Committee on welfare measures for Beedi Workers

60. SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY: SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Committee under his Ministry enquired into the welfare measures of Beedi Workers;

(b) whether officials of his Ministry gave evidence before such a Committee;

(c) whether officials of his Ministry favour cigarettes over beedi;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) No Sir. However, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour & Welfare held a detailed discussion last year on the welfare of beedi workers.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Complaints regarding export of poor quality tea

61. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that complaints have been received from some countries regarding export of poor quality tea to them;

(b) the total quantity of tea rejected together with its market value, country-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to boost the export of best quality tea from the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) No complaints have been received in the